

What Does Public Health Do?

Public health is a partnership of local public health agencies, local boards of health, and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), non-profit organizations, health care providers, policymakers, businesses and many others working together to protect and improve the health of Iowans. Public health strives to improve the quality of life for all Iowans by assuring access to quality population-based health services related to the following goals:

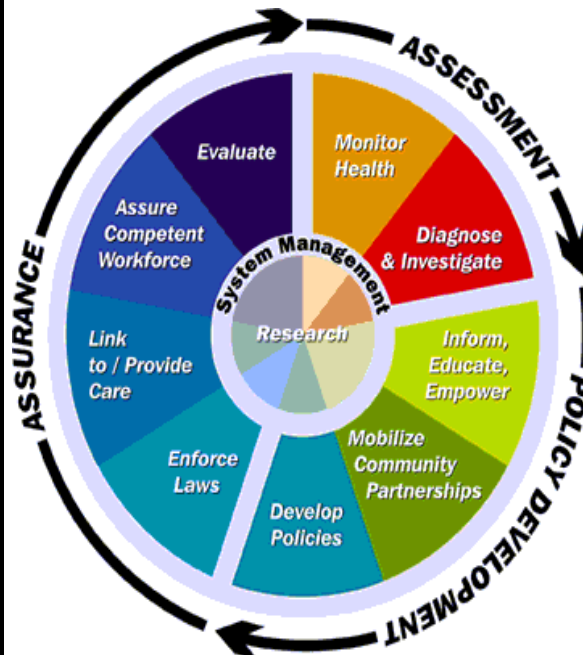
- Preventing injuries
- Promoting healthy behaviors
- Protect against environmental hazards
- Strengthening the public health infrastructure
- Preventing epidemics and the spread of disease
- Preparing for, responding to, and recovering from public health emergencies.

Local Board of Health members are appointed for a three year term by the County Board of Supervisors.

Local Boards of Health may provide population-based services, personal health services, and environmental health services as deemed necessary for the promotion and protection of the health of the public.

Local Boards of Health may employ persons as necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties.

Public health is responsible for safeguarding the community's health. The goal is pursued through three core functions and 10 essential services as listed below.



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Support the vision and mission of public health.

- **MISSION:** Healthy Iowans living in healthy communities.
- **VISION:** Promoting and protecting the health of Iowans.

Communicate with your community.

- Discuss health issues and concerns with business and community leaders.
- Share plans for public health with the community and obtain their input.

Develop policy based on community input.

- Obtain and use current and reliable data to determine policy.
- Support policy for population based public health and for individual health.

Assure compliance with legal responsibilities.

- Understand the legal responsibility of the Local Board of Health (LBOH)
- Conduct LBOH meetings in accordance with Iowa Open Meeting law.

Support accountable and quality practices.

- Adopt public health services supported by scientific research and established standards.
- Understand the fiscal support for public health in your community.



Educational Resources

Iowa Department of Public Health

<http://idph.iowa.gov>

Local Board of Health Orientation Video

"Improving the Health of the Community: My Role as a Board of Health Member"

<https://prepareiowa.training-source.org/local-board-health-orientation-video>

Local Board of Health Resources

- LBOH Toolkit
- LBOH Guidebook

<http://idph.iowa.gov/lphs/local-board-of-health>

Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 77 & 137

<http://idph.iowa.gov/lphs/rules>

For more information regarding Local Boards of Health in Iowa, contact:

Division of
Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention
Bureau of Local Public Health Services
Iowa Department of Public Health
Lucas Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075
(515) 745-2163

Each Local Board of Health is assigned a Regional Community Health Consultant (RCHC) to serve as a liaison between the IDPH, LBOH and the Local Public Health Agency (LPHA).

Community Health Consultants

- Provide orientation to LBOH members, agency director, and key agency staff.
- Attend Local Board of Health meetings.
- Provide technical assistance regarding public health issues.
- Serve as a "go-to" person for directors when they have questions regarding public health or agency issues.
- Assist with policy development, program planning, and workforce development.
- Provide oversight of LPHS contracts.
- Assist with Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Planning.
- Perform compliance reviews.
- Facilitate regional meetings and agency site visits for LPHA.
- Inform agency staff of key issues affecting their programs and agency operations.
- Serve as liaison with other IDPH bureaus such as Tobacco, Immunizations, and Family Health
- Connect LPHA with state and community partners.

Thank you for promoting and improving the health of the public in your community through your service on the local board of health.

Iowa Department of Public Health
Gerd W. Clabaugh MPA, Director
01-03-18



LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH (LBOH)

Local Boards of Health have jurisdiction over public health matters within a designated geographic area, and protect and improve the health of the residents.